

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank Cire on 09/23/2008.

In the Specification:

Please amend the title to read:

IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM USING CHARACTER SIZE AND WIDTH FOR MAGNIFICATION

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - a reading unit constructed to read an image in an original;
 - a character recognizing unit constructed to recognize a character in the image read by said reading unit and to output a character code as a result of recognition;
 - a storing unit constructed to store a character font;
 - a readout unit constructed to read the character font from said storing unit based on the character code output by said character recognizing unit;

a detecting unit constructed to detect a first character size concerning the character in the image read by said reading unit;

a setting unit constructed to set a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator;

a determining unit constructed to determine a second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio;

a selecting unit constructed to select a type of the character font stored in said storing unit based on an instruction by the operator; and

a generating unit constructed to generate a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the character font, the type of which is selected by said selecting unit,

wherein said generating unit generates the reproduced image by selectively allocating one of a plurality plural kinds of width of character gap widths between each of adjacent character[[s]], with a sum of plural character widths, each of said character widths corresponding to a combination of a width of the second character size and one of the plurality plural kinds of width of character gap widths, being fit to a width of the image read by said reading unit multiplied by the magnification ratio.

2. and 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the determining unit determines the second character size as a

maximum size by which all characters in the original can be reproduced as reproduced images.

5. and 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said generating unit reproduces characters by combining two or more of the [[a]] plurality of kinds of character gap widths gaps when a number of pixels of a character gap calculated in accordance with the magnification ratio is not an integer.

8. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

- reading an image in an original;
- detecting a first character size information concerning a character in the image;
- recognizing a character in the image and outputting a character code as a result of recognition;
- reading a character font from a storing unit based on the character code;
- setting a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator;
- determining a second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio;

selecting a type of the character font based on an instruction by the operator; and

generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font, the type of which is selected by said selecting step,

wherein said generating step generates the reproduced image by selectively allocating one of a plurality plural kinds of width of character gap widths between each ~~of~~ adjacent character[[s]], with a sum of plural character widths, each of said character widths corresponding to a combination of a width of the second character size and one of the plurality plural kinds of width of character gap widths, being fit to a width of the image read by said reading unit multiplied by the magnification ratio.

9. (Currently amended) A recording medium readable by a computer characterized by storing a program therein, said program using the computer to execute the processing comprising the steps of:

reading an image in an original;

detecting a first character size information concerning a character in the image;

recognizing a character in the image and outputting a character code as a result of recognition;

reading a character font from a storing unit based on the character code;

setting a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator;

determining a second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio;

selecting a type of the character font based on an instruction by the operator; and

generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font, type of which is selected by said selecting step,

wherein said generating step generates the reproduced image by selectively allocating one of a plurality plural kinds of width of character gap widths between each ~~of~~ adjacent character[[s]], with a sum of plural character widths, each of said character widths corresponding to a combination of a width of the second character size and one of the plurality plural kinds of width of character gap widths, being fit to a width of the image read in said reading step multiplied by the magnification ratio.

10. to 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can form on a sheet an image based on data input from at least any of a plurality of data generation sources including an original reading unit and an external apparatus.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can transmit data to an external apparatus through at least any of a plurality of data transmission media including a personal computer interface and a network.

28. and 29. (Canceled)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 07/18/2008, p. 10-11, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The Davies patent had been previously relied upon to teach the limitation, ...*wherein said generating unit generates the reproduced image by selectively allocating one of a plurality of character gap widths between each adjacent character,...* (Claim 1). The Davies patent does not teach the newly claimed limitation of claim 1, ... *with a sum of plural character widths, each of said character widths corresponding to a combination of a width of the second character size and one of the plurality of character gap widths, being fit to a width of the image read by said reading unit multiplied by the magnification ratio.*

The newly claimed limitation is not disclosed by the Miyaza and McQueen patents, and a search of the prior art did not locate prior art having the combined limitations of independent claim 1, and independent claims 8 and 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMELIA RUTLEDGE whose telephone number is (571)272-7508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

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Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call
800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Amelia Rutledge/
Examiner, Art Unit 2176